

Gilliam for his dedication to family and country.

JOHN E. BALES

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Golden Fire Chief John E. Bales for his many years of service to the City of Golden and surrounding communities.

For almost two decades, Chief Bales has been active within the Golden community and fire department. Chief Bales became Golden Fire Chief in 2001, but his personal passion and a commitment to his community started long before then. For more than 50 years, Chief Bales contributed to several Colorado communities and other communities across the country with positions at the Rocky Flats Fire Department, Genesee Fire Protection District, Cunningham Fire Protection District, City of Thornton Fire Department, and the Wichita Fire Department. His hard work and dedication has helped make our community—and so many others—a great place to live and work.

I extend my deepest thanks to Chief Bales for his service to our community. Thank you for your continuous dedication to serving the people of Colorado.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT  
JACK J. PENDLETON

**HON. DAN NEWHOUSE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Staff Sergeant Jack Pendleton of Yakima, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his service during World War II.

In Germany in 1944, Sergeant Pendleton lost his life while drawing enemy gunfire away from his squad, and he was awarded the Medal of Honor one year later. He is the sole Medal of Honor recipient from Yakima.

I would like to thank U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Ramon Dang. Two years ago, Sergeant Major Dang was touring our state to care for the graves of Medal of Honor recipients when he discovered that Sergeant Pendleton's grave did not include an appropriate memorial. A memorial statue, a 6-foot granite sculpture, was subsequently dedicated at Tahoma Cemetery on September 26th of this year.

Sergeant Pendleton's Medal of Honor citation reads, "[His] sacrifice enabled the entire company to continue the advance and complete their mission at a critical phase of the action." He made the ultimate sacrifice for his brothers-in-arms and our nation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Staff Sergeant Jack Pendleton.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE  
GIRL

**HON. ROBIN L. KELLY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize October 11th as the International Day of the Girl, a day to promote girls' empowerment and examine the challenges and barriers girls face around the world. According to the UN High Commission on Refugees, there are approximately 65 million forcibly displaced people worldwide and half are under the age of 18. Prolonged periods away from home result in low school enrollment rates for displaced children, which leaves girls vulnerable to early marriage, human trafficking, and child labor. The Protecting Girl's Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act, which myself and Congressman CHABOT introduced, aims to ensure educational needs of displaced girls are considered in the design, implementation, and evaluation of U.S. foreign assistance. Girls perform better in school when they have access to quality education and a safe space to learn. International Day of the Girl, is a day to reflect on the importance of ensuring all children, especially girls, have access to safe, quality education.

HONORING SAMUEL THOMAS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Thomas. Samuel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 404, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Samuel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Samuel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Samuel has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Samuel completed a natural area for the Missouri Department of Conservation outdoor classroom.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Samuel for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BREAST  
CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This month is devoted to raising awareness and educating folks about breast cancer and

honoring the thousands of women across our nation who have been diagnosed, fighting, or have survived breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States. It is the second deadliest cancer among American women. 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer over the course of her lifetime, and it is estimated that this year more than 252,000 cases of invasive breast cancer is expected to be reported. In Texas, 17,566 women were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2018.

In the Second District of Texas, I am proud of our local hospitals, school districts, and non-profits who promote breast cancer awareness and prevention during this month. Many are showing their support by replacing their outdoor light bulb with a pink bulb. I have noticed many front porch lights shining pink around our town. These pink bulbs help support a local nonprofit called Project Mammogram. Project Mammogram offers mammograms and other services free to patients in the Lake Houston area. Remember, not every woman can afford a mammogram. By providing free mammograms this organization has saved thousands of women.

Almost everyone we know has been touched by this disease. Unfortunately, this disease has hit close to home for one of our very own community leaders, Leslie Raffa. Leslie and her husband, Tony, own two restaurants in the Lake Houston area. They are well-loved and respected in the community. Leslie battled breast cancer for over two and a half years, her final treatment was in February 2017. During the course of her treatments, she underwent a bilateral mastectomy, breast reconstruction and chemotherapy. During her battle, Leslie lost her sister to breast cancer in the summer of 2016. Leslie continued to fight while mourning the death of her sister.

Leslie rang the monumental bell at MD Anderson in April of 2016. The bell signifies the end to treatment. Ringing the bell is a celebration. But Leslie soon realized that the end of treatment is not necessarily the end. She thought if she would just get to the end and cross the finish line it would all be over. But she soon discovered an emotional fall out occurs. Cancer is hard mentally. It takes months, years, to recover. She shares this piece of advice for those going through what she went through, "it's ok to have a pity party, but don't unpack and stay there." Leslie exudes positive energy and happiness, even during the lowest moments. She beat the odds that come along with this disease and tries her best to educate those around her to get annual breast exams.

Now this is where I usually say: "And that's just the way it is." But Leslie's story is not over. The same year she completed her last treatment, Hurricane Harvey devastated our area. Raffa's Waterfront Grill was destroyed. Friends and family gathered quickly around them to help rebuild the restaurant that took on 5 feet of water. Leslie didn't flounder in pity and give up; she put on her water boots and gloves (I am sure they are pink) and began the cleanup process. Raffa's will open this year, and our community cannot be any happier for Tony and Leslie. This month Leslie will speak in front of hundreds of folks at the annual In the Pink Luncheon to share her survival story. Stories like Leslie's are an inspiration and a reminder that we must keep up the fight until there is a cure.